

## 8th to 9th Grade Transition Parent Webinar Questions & Answers January 2022

- 1. How do we see a list of classes and electives?** The 2021 - 2022 Program of Studies is posted on the NCHS website [here](#). It will be very similar to the 2022-2023 one which will be online by the middle of February.
- 2. If a student took a language in Saxe but they don't feel ready to start at the second level, can they go back to level 1?** The best first step would be to discuss with your child's Saxe World Language teacher, but yes, in some cases this is possible.
- 3. Is sign language a World Language option?** Sign Language is not offered at NCHS.
- 4. Are elective courses for a full year? Or do students change electives each semester?** The majority of electives are semester courses, but some are full year (see Program of Studies).
- 5. How many electives can a student take in one semester or year?** The vast majority of 9th graders take one elective at a time.
- 6. Is there a recommended number of clubs a child should join without being overextended?** It would depend. Some clubs take more time than others so it would be different depending on the student's other activities. For example, if a student is an athlete or is part of the theater, that may be all they can manage.
- 7. Will there be a club "fair" of sorts so the kids can learn more about the options before they decide what to join? There are so many to choose from...** Yes, there is a Club Fair for all freshmen and sophomores during the school day in late September or early October.
- 8. Are the electives you listed available all four years? And are some of the electives prerequisites for electives in later years? I.e. Is there Computer Science II and III, Food & Nutrition II, etc.** The Program of Studies states the required grade and any prerequisites for each course. Some electives can be taken more than once and most are offered every year.
- 9. Based upon kids' interest/ambition do school counselors guide kids on courses they should pick for next 4 years? Yes, your child's school counselor will meet with each of his/her students in the fall of freshman year to develop a tentative 4-year plan and then they will help your child to review it each year as they solidify interests and goals.**
- 10. WL question: I seem to remember from research on the NCPS website that one could continue the language they started at Saxe AND (not just or) start a new**

**language in HS. Is that still an option? How would it get worked into the schedule?**

The student should work with their counselor to make certain that all of their requirements are also met so that they can graduate on time. In most cases, students will finish the sequence of the language they started in middle school early so that they can get the other requirements in, as well.

- 11. If a child decides to continue with a music class, does that mean there is no room in the schedule for another elective?** It can be fit in but then the student may not have any free time in his/her schedule if the additional elective is added.
- 12. Does NCHS offer an IB certification?** NCHS offers A.P. courses, not I.B. courses.
- 13. Do counselors maintain regular contact with individual parents - particularly as the child gets closer to college? Specifically, will parents get regular meetings with their child's counselors (eg, once per year) to plot a course for college admissions as a "team" (counselor, parents & child)? Or, do parents need to proactively reach out to counselors with specific questions?** Counselors run programs yearly with groups of parents to keep them on track with the process. In junior year, counselors meet with families individually to discuss the process in more detail but by then the expectation is that students are more independent and will take on more responsibility for their future. On a case by case basis, some parents may meet with their child's counselor more regularly but much is done via email and phone.
- 14. When are the placement recommendations communicated to the parents?** The placement recommendations will be communicated in March.
- 15. When will placement tests happen and which subject will offer placement tests versus just teacher recs for placement? My child said that prior to break students did an 'assessment' which was then graded by HS teachers. Can you please explain this?** Please see the post "Advanced Placement Letter (November 18, 2021)" [here](#) for more information on the 9th grade placements process. For example, Saxe World Language teachers have been administering "benchmark" assessments that show them what a student can do with the language. They will use this information, in conjunction with assessment and class participation, to guide the placement recommendation. There are no additional after school "performance tasks".
- 16. Can you point me to where there is a list of honors classes?** In the Program of Study, courses are titled either "Honors" or "Advanced Placement".
- 17. What years do APs start?** The earliest is sophomore year based on teacher recommendations.
- 18. Is there a Learning Strategies class?** Yes, just as in 8th grade, but at the high school it is called "Learning Center".

- 19. When you mention some students can be recommended for multiple honors courses, will someone help guide them as to the coursework and how to select which ones to focus on, etc?** Yes, you and/or your child can work with his/her current Saxe school counselor at any time this year and/or his/her NCHS school counselor starting in September. Eighth grade orientation will also help with the decision as to what classes to take and what level.
- 20. How are counselors assigned? Are student profiles shared from Saxe to determine the best fit or is it random?** For students with an older sibling(s), they will be assigned to the same school counselor as their sibling. For other students, the class is distributed among the school counselors in a balanced, equitable manner.
- 21. Will there be an AP class presentation discussing all the AP classes over 4 years, prerequisites over the next four years? It would be a shame to not make a choice in the freshman year that would have implications on opportunities in later years?** The 8th Grade Parent & Student Orientation Night will provide more information on AP/Honors classes. Please know that all students will have the opportunity to take the AP classes that are appropriate and recommended for him/her in a given year.
- 22. Is there any requirement on SSL (student service learning) hours to graduate?** There is no graduation requirement for service learning.
- 23. Are there performing arts/theatre classes that can be taken as electives or is it just by auditioning for each show?** Aside from music classes, there are no theater courses. There are freshmen/sophomore musicals that are separate from upperclassmen shows so there are more opportunities for students to participate.